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For More Information:

Jay Mattison, NDHIA 608-848-6455, x111

Dan Meihak, National FAIR 802-451-4261, x4260

National DHIA and Holstein USA Announce Premises and Animal ID Agreement

May 19, 2004, Chicago, IL---At the ID ● Info Expo 2004 held here today, the National Dairy Herd Improvement Association (NDHIA) and Holstein USA, Inc. announced a cooperative agreement between the two organizations to begin initial implementation of premises and animal identification utilizing Holstein's National Farm Animal Identification and Records (National FAIR) as the terminal database for the program.

The National FAIR system is an animal identification and tracking database with 1.2 million animals enrolled in 47 states.

NDHIA, with its 27,000 members and 4.2 million producing cows, strongly supports the need for mandatory premises and animal ID to safeguard the national dairy herd. This includes the endorsement of a phased-in system of the program proposed by the United States Animal Identification Plan (USAIP). The USAIP serves as the basis of USDA's recently announced National Animal Identification System (NAIS).

In the agreement with National FAIR, the DHIA system would collect premises and animal ID data through the DHIA field service system for entry into National FAIR, thus demonstrating efforts to achieve premises and animal implementation. The NDHIA and National FAIR cooperation will provide the needed leadership and support to put the dairy industry at the forefront of animal identification.

"We feel strongly that active producer participation in the formation and governance of the animal identification system is essential," states Jay Mattison, CEO and Administrator, NDHIA. "It is also important to have a program that promotes market access and commerce."

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NDHIA/National FAIR – add one

NDHIA and Holstein USA, Inc. have agreed to work cooperatively to demonstrate dairy industry leadership in animal identification. “This is paramount to the dairy industry being able to have a functional, producer-governed premises and animal ID program to ensure access to markets and to safeguard animal health,” explains John Meyer, CEO, Holstein USA, Inc.

In addition to the implementation plan, both organizations are committed to educational efforts to explain all aspects of premises and animal identification to producers and related industry.

National DHIA, a dairy-producer cooperative, serves the best interest of its members and the dairy industry by maintaining a quality national dairy records program.

National F.A.I.R. is an animal identification model that ensures accurate, complete and cost-effective animal identification information that helps to safeguard the health of the national dairy herd.

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